

Application Serial No.: 09/733,788
Attorney Docket No.: 0190143

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the *Non-Final* Office Action of December 15, 2005, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-9, 16 and 18-20. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 16 have been amended, and new claims 24-27 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 1, 5-9, 16, 18-20 and 24-27 are pending in the present application. Allowance of outstanding claims 1, 5-9, 16, 18-20 and 24-27 in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 16 and 18-20 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-7, 9, 16 and 18-20, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable by Kingetsu, et al. (USPN 6,181,379) ("Kingetsu") in view of Kihara, et al. (US Publication No. 2001/0009438) ("Kihara").

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, by the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "wherein each of the red, green or blue white-balance coefficients varies based on lighting conditions."

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Kingetsu does not even disclose, teach or suggest white-balancing the captured color image to generate a white-balanced color image by multiplying each red, green or blue photocell value by one of red, green or blue white-balance coefficients, respectively, and without interpolating each red, green or blue photocell value with values from other photocells, let alone disclosing that each of the

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red, green or blue white-balance coefficients varies based on lighting conditions. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Kihara fails to disclose, teach or suggest that each of the red, green or blue white-balance coefficients varies based on lighting conditions, as recited in claim 1 of the present application, as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the written description of the present application supports the present amendment to claims 1 and 16, at least at page 12, lines 4-16.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, and its dependent claims 5-7 and 9 should be allowed. Further, independent claim 16 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of claim 1, as amended. Thus, claim 16, as amended, and its dependent claims 18-20 should also be allowed.

B. Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 8, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kingetsu in view of Kihara, and further in view of Matsui (USPN 5,448,292) ("Matsui").

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed at least for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of claim 1.

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C. New Claims 24-27

By the present amendment, applicant has added new dependent claims 24-27. It is respectfully submitted that claims 24-25 and 26-27 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively, and they should be allowed at least for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of claims 1 and 16. Further, claims 24 and 26 find support in the present application, for example, in FIG. 1 and its related written description at page 9, lines 4-10. Also, claims 25 and 27 find support in the present application, for example, at page 12, lines 4-16.

D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1, 5-9, 16, 18-20 and 24-27 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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